



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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THE SOLITUDE OF TOPAZ

Not much remains of the original Topaz site, but the Topaz Museum is ensuring that what took place there is never forgotten.

Hawaii
JACL's Jace
Mikulanec
contemplates
the solitude
of Topaz.

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Part 2 of the Redress
Plenary From the JACL
National Convention

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GFBNEC Names New
Chairman and Board
Members

Celebrating 90 Years

Letter to the Editor

JACL APOLOGIZES TO TULE LAKE RESISTERS

Dear Editor,

The new generation of JACL leaders and members should be congratulated for acknowledging and understanding the need for voting for the resolution offering a sincere apology to Tule Lake resisters. The National Council of the JACL took the action on Aug. 3, 2019, at its National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In adopting the apology resolution, the National Council of the JACL resolved that in the spirit of reconciliation, forgiveness and community unity, a sincere apology would be offered to those who were imprisoned in the Tule Lake Segregation Center for nonviolent acts of resistance and dissent, who suffered shame and stigma during and after the war due to the JACL's attitudes and treatment toward individuals unfairly labeled "disloyal"; the National Council also resolved that all chapters understand the issues of imprisonment, mistreatment and resistance of Tule Lake resisters; update the JACL Curriculum Guide and teaching materials; and recognize Tule Lake resisters at an appropriate public ceremony during the 2020-21 biennial.

Past attempts of apology resolutions were blocked by past JACL leaders and Nisei veterans who long maintained animosity toward Tule

Lake resisters for physical attacks by extremists against JACL leaders, and exemption from the draft, while Nisei veterans made major sacrifices.

These issues were brought up again by a minority of JACL delegates in opposition, but many delegates spoke in favor of the resolution and carried the day. The co-sponsors of the resolution were the Pacific Northwest District Council and the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District Council. The key leaders of the committee effectively shepherding the resolution were National JACL Board Member Haruka Roudebush and Stan Shikuma of the Seattle chapter.

This is a historic moment in the history between the JACL and Tule Lake resisters that extends back 76 years. In 1943, the War Relocation Authority, with the concurrence of the JACL, administered and summarily sent all persons who resisted the "loyalty questionnaire" in any way — i.e., refusing to answer, answering in the negative, answering with a qualified yes — to the Tule Lake Segregation Center that was converted into a high-security prison.

Tule Lake resisters totaled 12,000 inmates, and the majority were innocent women and children victims. Unlike in other camps where security was lax, they were treated like enemy alien pris-

oners and under the threat of prisoner exchanges and deportation to Japan after the war.

Even after the war, the JACL with its super-patriotism position, long denigrated Tule Lake resisters. As a result, Tule Lake resisters were stigmatized and slurred as the "No-Nos" by the Japanese American community to this day.

Tule Lake resisters, family and descendants can take comfort from this recognition and apology by the JACL. This apology was long past due, as 76 years of stigmatizing has been hurtful and wrong.

We are thankful to the new generation of JACL leaders and members to try to stop the stigmatizing, admit past wrongs and divisions and hopefully achieve reconciliation and unity to the Japanese American community. Then this can be considered a victory for Tule Lake Resisters and the JACL.



Sincerely,
Yukio Kawaratani

Dear Editor,

During World War II, Japanese Americans were detained in incarceration camps just because they looked like the enemy, Japan. Today, immigrant children are being removed from their families and put into detention centers just because President Trump hates immigrants.

I'm going to talk about their similarities and why people should not be put in these camps just because of their looks or where they come from.

Japanese incarceration camps were established during World War II by President Franklin Roosevelt through his Executive Order 9066. From 1942-45, it was the policy of the U.S. government that people of Japanese descent would be

placed in isolation camps. These camps are now considered one of the most horrible violations of American civil rights in the 20th century.

Immigrant families, including children, who now seek a better life in the United States are being separated when they try to move here. The detention centers that children are being held in are unsafe and unhealthy.

Immigrant and refugee children should be treated with dignity and respect and should not be exposed to conditions that may harm or traumatize them.

From the moment children are in the custody of the United States, they deserve good care. Please don't repeat history.

Signed,
M. Aki, 6th Grader

(This letter was submitted for publication by Joemy Ito-Gates, a teacher in the summer program Daruma no Gakko in Berkeley, Calif. This letter was written by his student as a final project about the parallels between Japanese American incarceration during WWII and the current-day concentration camps at the U.S. southern borders. Students spent four weeks learning about JA incarceration history, the reparations and redress movement and current-day JA activism such as the Tsuru for Solidarity actions.)

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NIKKEI VOICE

I'VE HEARD 'GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM' TOO OFTEN IN MY LIFE

By Gil Asakawa

I was driving on the highway one night some years back between Denver and Boulder, when I got harassed by a couple of young white guys, probably in their teens or early 20s at the most, who were tailgating me. When I pulled off at an exit, they followed me, so I turned into a parking lot and got out of my car. They did the same and started yelling at me.

"Go back to China, you dirty Jap! Remember Pearl Harbor!" they said.

I shot back some pleasantries myself, educating them on the fact that I'm Japanese American, and China is different from Japan. At one point, I remember telling them that I was more American than they were, and I also noted that I spoke better English than they did. I ended the "conversation" by pointing out that they were driving a "Jap" car, a Honda Civic. Idiots.

This incident goes hand-in-hand with the many slights, insults and racist stupidity I — and I suspect many of you readers — have endured in my life. I was born in Tokyo, so when someone says, "Go back to where you came from," I have to admit, they might have a point that I'm not from "here."

But my dad was in the U.S. Army, and I was born in a military hospital and raised around military bases until we moved to the States

when I was 8. So, how much more American do I need to be?

Still, once I moved to the U.S., I learned to dread every Dec. 7 and the inevitable verbal assaults of "Remember Pearl Harbor!" and "Sneaky Jap!" I also bit my tongue whenever someone randomly "ching chonged" me on the street or held their eyes in a ridiculous slant.

Not that long ago, after I had moderated a panel at the prestigious SXSW Music & Media Conference in Austin, Texas, I encountered a dude in a cowboy hat who blocked my way in a hallway and snickered, "In this country, we pass on the left."

My friends at the Denver Post didn't believe me when I told them that when I walk down the sidewalk, white people expect me to move out of the way, even if they could easily shift over. They believed me when we went out during lunch to the downtown 16th Street Mall, and they saw this happen again and again. It got to the point where I'll go out of my way to not move aside and hit the white person, then say, "Excuse YOU." Petty, yes, but it's a little victory that vents my frustration.

So, when Donald Trump — the president of the United States — recently began attacking four elected lawmakers in Congress as un-American foreigners and said that they should "go back" to where they came from, I got a hard pit in my stomach. I knew this script.

I wasn't surprised when at his next rally, his followers began chanting, "Send her back!"

just as they'd chanted, "Lock her up!" about Hillary Clinton not only during the 2016 presidential campaign but also at every rally since, when Trump mentioned her name for effect.

It would be disturbing enough if that was a one-off event, but Trump has continued to demonize Congresswomen Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib (who are Muslim) as anti-Semitic because they dared to criticize Israel. He's now taken that to the next step to say that Jews who voted for Democrats (the majority of Jews in the U.S., by the way) are stupid and "disloyal" to Israel. That's a longstanding racist trope used by — wait for it — white nationalist anti-Semites to criticize people of the Jewish faith.

Just last week, Trump also mocked the accents of the leaders of Japan and South Korea. I wouldn't be surprised if he pulled his eyes back sometimes, too.

Our president's undisguised racism has apparently inspired people such as the self-confessed El Paso, Texas, shooter, who killed 22 people in a Walmart knowing that that's where Latinos — including those from Mexico, right across the border in Ciudad Juarez — would be shopping for school supplies.



President Donald Trump asked Israel to deny entry to Democratic Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib (above) and Ilhan Omar because he said in a tweet that they "hate Israel and all Jewish people."

Our president has given permission to his base, many apparently who felt they were being smothered by "political correctness" in the past several decades since the civil rights movement earned hard-fought freedoms for African-Americans and other people of color.

People who maybe would not have yelled inanities at me (OK, those young men were not smothered by political correctness at all) now feel empowered to "let their racist flag fly" (apologies to the hippie generation, who coined the term "let the freak flag fly").

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LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

STOP DRUGGING OUR SENIORS

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

This is a follow-up article to the "Getting Old Is Not for Sissies" article (*Pacific Citizen*, June 28-July 11, 2019) in which I said, "In order to protect your loved one from nursing home abuse and neglect, you need to know the law and your legal rights." In this article, I want to discuss the illegal drugging of nursing home residents. You ask, "Is this really a problem?"

You bet. Here's an example: On May 9, 2019, the State of California Department of Health issued a citation to the Palos Verdes Health Care Center in Lomita, Calif. Numerous "medication" codes and statutes had been violated. The department found that the improper use of anti-psychotics, anti-depressants, anti-anxiety and hypnotic drugs "placed residents at risk for experiencing adverse effects including, but not limited to, dizziness, drowsiness, constipation, movement disorders and death."

Psychotropic drugs were given to residents

to make "it easier to provide care," ensure residents "follow instructions better" and make them "easier to talk to." Some residents were given drugs to address their "sad face." But here's the part that makes "really bad" even worse — for these multiple violations affecting multiple residents, the facility was given one Class B citation and fined a paltry \$2,000!!!

With nothing more than the proverbial "slap on the wrist," it's no wonder that nearly 60 percent of all California nursing home residents are given psychoactive drugs (*Source: California Advocates of Nursing Home Reform, Toxic Medicine, 2012*).

These dangerous drugs are not intended or approved for the resident's medical condition. Rather, the drugs are often used to sedate and control patients, a terrible substitute for the individualized care all residents need and deserve.

That means YOU are the key to prevent abuse and make sure that your loved one is one of the 40 percent of nursing home residents who are not being given behavior-modifying drugs.

You need to: (1) remain active in the care of

your loved one by visiting frequently; (2) build relationships with staff; (3) actively participate in the care planning process; (4) monitor care and act as an effective advocate.

Most importantly, know the law. Under the Reform Law, a behavior-modifying drug — called a "psychotropic" drug — can be used only to treat a specific condition. Behavior-modifying drugs cannot be used for discipline or the nursing home's convenience. Like any other drug, a behavior-modifying drug can be administered only with the consent of the resident.

The patient is the only person who can provide consent to health-care treatment. Doctors or other health-care providers may not act as surrogates for their patients. The reason informed consent requirements exist in the first place is to prevent health-care providers from providing care based solely on their opinion.

The most basic rule about psychotropics is that the resident, or a decision-maker authorized to make decisions on his/her behalf, must consent to their use after being informed of the possible risks, benefits and alternatives.

"Alternatives"? Indeed — drugs should be a last resort, and a care planning meeting is the best place to discuss and consider nondrug-related options such as exercise, activities, pets, music and supervised trips outside the nursing home.

Before consenting to an anti-psychotic or any other behavior-modifying drug, residents and representatives should demand a full and careful discussion of nondrug-related strategies.

Rather than administering a psychotropic drug for a resident's "agitation," for example, the nursing home staff may want to speak to the resident differently or provide activities that make the resident more comfortable. Good dementia care requires listening to a resident and recognizing individual needs.

In deciding whether use of a particular drug is advisable, a good rule of thumb is to consider whether the drug's use is intended to treat a diagnosed health problem or keep the resident more manageable.

If the benefit is to the resident, then use of the drug may be advisable. If, on the other hand, use of the drug would be largely for the nursing home's benefit — for example, to keep the resident quiet and out of the way — then the drug likely should be refused.

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JACL HIRES NEW BUSINESS MANAGER ROYA AFSHARZADA

JACL welcomes Roya Afsharzada to its San Francisco headquarters as the organization's new business manager.

Afsharzada comes to the JACL after having worked previously as controller/accounting coordinator for the Community Foundation for Monterey County, staff accountant for MGE Underground, accounts receivable/finance accountant for Easter Seals Central California and linguist instructor at the Defense Language Institute, among her professional highlights.

In August 2009, Afsharzada received a scholarship from the Fulbright program as a Foreign Language Teaching Assistant and came to the U.S. from Afghanistan. In 2014, she graduated college from Brandman University and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in organizational leadership. In 2018, she earned her Master of Business Administration from California State University, Monterey Bay.

"My visions are to see myself in a position where I can lead individuals, organizations and people to obtain advancement goals, while also creating and developing honest and positive relationships within work environments," said Afsharzada. ■

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION HELD AT WAKAMATSU FARM

The three-day event celebrates Japanese American heritage, arts and cuisine to recognize the 150th anniversary of the first Japanese pioneers' arrival in Placerville, Calif.

PLACERVILLE, CALIF. — WakamatsuFest150 was held recently to celebrate Japanese American heritage, arts and cuisine at Wakamatsu Farm and recognize the 150th anniversary of the first Japanese pioneers' arrival in Placerville, where they established the first Japanese colony in America in June 1969.

Hosted by the American River Conservancy, the occasion honored Japanese American immigration and drew a large, diverse international crowd to the one-time-only historic occasion.

In all, more than 4,000 visitors, performers, artists, vendors and volunteers joined WakamatsuFest150 over the course of the three-day event from June 6-9. The site itself is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was declared California Registered Historic Landmark #815 during the June 1965 centennial celebrations hosted 50 years ago at Wakamatsu Farm.

Artists shared ongoing hands-on demonstrations of Japanese art forms such as haiku, temari balls, calligraphy, sumi-e painting, wood block printing and silk spinning, spooling and weaving. Lecturers, farmers and historians also discussed tea, history, their books and Japanese culture. Musicians also performed for the crowd and masters and students demonstrated Japanese archery, swordsmanship and martial arts.

A Buddhist service was also conducted each day at the gravesite of Okei-san, the first Japanese woman and immigrant buried on American soil. Her gravesite is the main reason why the Wakamatsu story has survived over the past 150 years.



Japanese dancers wearing specially made WakamatsuFest150 anniversary hapi coats

PHOTO: BETTY SEDERQUIST

The gravesite of Okei-san, the first Japanese woman and immigrant buried on American soil, was honored during WakamatsuFest150.

PHOTO: MELISSA LOBACH



Dignitaries from Japan also joined the festivities, including Japanese Parliament Member Shinji Oguma and Tomochika Uyama, the consul general of Japan in San Francisco. Also on hand was special guest and lecturer Iehiro Tokugawa, heir of the Tokugawa Shogunate whose ancestors ruled Japan for more than 260 years, and Chikamori Matsudaira, the 15th heir of the Matsudaira clan family who is referred to as a "prince," participated in the weekend events wearing the traditional costume of his samurai lord ancestors.

On June 8, the exact 150th anniversary date, all distinguished visitors from Japan met several descendants of Wakamatsu colonists from both America and Japan. The occasion represented a full-circle reunion in the Japanese immigration story when the descendants of nobles and commoners of Wakamatsu history finally met at their "Plymouth Rock" landing site in America.

During that moment, Prince Matsudaira presented the Wakamatsu Colony descendants with sake and samurai swords made in Japan.

To bring the Wakamatsu story alive during the festival, audiences enjoyed daily performances of the live-action play "Gold Hill Samurai." In addition, docents were posted at history stations throughout the farm to support self-guided tours.

Artifacts were also on display in the historic Graner House, which included a gold-threaded banner



Prince Chikamori Matsudaira, wearing the traditional costume of his samurai lord ancestors, pays his respects at the gravesite of Okei-san.

PHOTOS: MARK SHIGENAGA



A memorial to Matsunosuke Sakurai was also unveiled during the festivities. Sakurai, a samurai from Aizu-Wakamatsu, Japan, was a member of the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Colony in Gold Hill. When his friend, Okei, died in 1871, he saved funds for 15 years to give her gravesite a lasting stone marker.

and 14th-century samurai dagger left by the Wakamatsu Colonists and three volumes of Commodore Perry's ship logs.

In addition, ARC distributed more than 6,000 copies of the 16-page festival program before and during the festival that delved into greater details the history of the farm and the festival itinerary.

American elected officials who joined WakamatsuFest150 included Placerville Mayor Mark Acuna, Assemblyman Ken Cooley and County Supervisors Lori Parlin and Brian Veerkamp. The San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival queen and her court also participated in the festivities. ■

VENICE-WEST L.A. JACL ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Nicole Suzuki, an honor student who will be attending Northeastern University this fall, was selected recently as the winner of the Venice-West Los Angeles chapter of the JACL's Jack Nomura High School Scholarship.

Suzuki, 18, graduated from the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies with a weighted 4.15 grade point average and was named an AP Scholar with Distinction by the College Board. Suzuki, the daughter of Paul and Carole Suzuki of Los Angeles, was also a member of the varsity swim and water polo teams and was student body treasurer.

She applied to more than a dozen colleges and chose



Scholarship winner Nicole Suzuki is pictured with her parents, Paul and Carole Suzuki.

Northeastern University in Boston, where she plans to study cellular and molecular biology. Suzuki would like to pursue a career in genetic research.

Her father, a judge for the Los Angeles County Superior Court, is a former JACL chapter president.

The \$1,000 scholarship is named in honor of the late Jack Nomura, a longtime chapter board member.

For more information, contact the Venice-WLA JACL at venicewlajacl@gmail.com or visit the chapter on Facebook.



Meeting at the White House on Aug. 10, 1984, to discuss redress. (From left), JACL National Redress Committee Chair John Tateishi; Chief White House Domestic Affairs Adviser Jack Svahn; JACL National President Floyd Shimomura; Frank Sato, the highest-ranking Japanese American in the Reagan administration; and Lou Hayes, Svahn's deputy.

PHOTO:
COURTESY
OF FLOYD
SHIMOMURA

PLENARY PART 2: FINDING SUCCESS FOR REDRESS

CWRIC hearings, a figure is reached and a secret White House meeting

By P.C. Staff

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is Part 2 of an article that appeared in the Aug. 16-29, 2019, edition of the Pacific Citizen about the plenary from the 2019 National JACL Convention on the early years of redress.)

Although disliked by many Japanese Americans both inside and outside the JACL at the time of its formation, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians would prove to be one of the many critical building blocks to the eventual success of Japanese American redress via the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that was enacted by President Ronald Reagan.

The CWRIC hearings allowed Issei and Nisei to not only publicly share the repressed-for-decades pain of their wartime experiences of removal and incarceration at the hands of the federal government and thereby educate lawmakers and the general populace, but also the commission's findings and recommendations served to underpin everything that was yet to come.

Nevertheless, those hearings were painful for everyone involved.

"That was the most-grueling, difficult experience I had ever gone through in my life, sitting there in these hearings," said John Tateishi, chair of the JACL's National Committee for Redress. "I felt guilty because I was involved in the decision and trying to get this to happen. I felt it was my obligation to sit through the hearings, but I could only take so much at a time. After a couple of hours, I'd have to go outside and get relief."

Following the meeting with the "Big Four" — Sens. Inouye and Matsunaga, and Reps. Matsui and Mineta — (see Part 1 of this story, P.C. Aug. 16-29, 2019), the JACL's National Committee for Redress met in March 1979. Tateishi said that "nobody liked the idea of a commission." But in a vote of 4-2, a decision was made to pursue legislation to create what would become the CWRIC.

Tateishi knew the reaction to the committee's vote would be bad.

"But I had no idea how bad it would be," he said. "It was one of those things where you feel like finding somewhere to go hide. The reaction within the JACL was just as harsh as it was in the community."

It would take some political sleight-of-hand to show that the majority of JACL members were on board with the idea of a commission.

"Karl Nobuyuki, who was the director at the time, he and I decided we should do a ratification process and silence our critics. It was risky, but we did an assessment and thought we could get the chapters to support this," Tateishi said. "We did the mailing, and we got back results, and we announced it vaguely that there was a 5-1 decision to support the commission strategy."

"What we didn't say was that the majority of the chapters didn't vote," Tateishi continued. "They were so upset — this was the way they voiced their protest. If they had voted, that ratification would have been against the idea of the commission strategy."

♦♦♦

In hindsight, the value of the CWRIC seems obvious. But just how harsh were the reactions to the concepts of a commission and redress itself?

"They were opposed to redress because they didn't want to talk about camp," Tateishi said, referring to the Nisei. "What happened to us is that after the war, we built that wall of silence. Nobody talked. A lot of the Niseis didn't tell their kids about what they experienced."

Getting the Nisei to talk at the CWRIC hearings was crucial, Tateishi said because "without the Nisei, it would have been an utter failure."

"My biggest fear was, 'What in the hell do we do when the commission comes to town?' The whole purpose was to get Japanese Americans up there, speaking about what they experienced. I didn't know if it would work because as Ron (Wakabayashi) pointed out, in these mock hearings we held, no one could get through their testimony."

Ultimately, as history shows, the gamble paid off.

After the schedule for the 10 hearings in several major U.S. cities — including Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C. — was released in 1981, survivors of the camp experience did come out and talk.

"It was a really courageous thing they did, and it was difficult for them," Tateishi said. "They're the ones who changed the mind of the country about what happened to us because

every night it would be on the news, every hearing we had."

Moderator Floyd Shimomura added, "I think that the response that the Nisei got was a great deal of sympathy and sorrow for the hardship that they had to go through, from friends and people who knew them, and I think that started to make them think they could come out and talk about this."

♦♦♦

During the era of redress that this plenary covered (1977-84), it was noted that things we now take for granted, such as inexpensive long-distance phone calling, not to mention e-mail and social media, did not exist. Therefore, disseminating news of the redress campaign via the mass media — meaning mainstream newspapers and the three national TV networks — took cleverness and making the most of the opportunities as they presented themselves.

As noted, Sen. S. I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.), who was the keynote speaker at the Sayonara Banquet at the 1978 JACL National Convention, denounced the idea of pursuing monetary compensation.

The day before, the JACL had approved the resolution to pursue redress, including a demand for \$25,000 per person in compensation.

Tateishi got laughs from the audience when he said, "To this day, I have no idea how Hayakawa was invited to keynote at the Sayonara Banquet."

Still, it was no laughing matter at the time because there were newspaper reporters in attendance who would report Hayakawa's opposition to monetary redress, which Tateishi remembered Hayakawa describing as "absurd and ridiculous."

It was necessary to turn Hayakawa's lemons into lemonade.

Tateishi quickly drafted a news release to counter Hayakawa's position, which he gave to the reporters. Both he and JACL National President Clifford Uyeda also spoke "very briefly" with the reporters.

"They incorporated part of our press release in the story, which to me was important because I knew that story would go on the wires, and it did. In the matter of a week, the Wall Street Journal came out with an editorial titled 'Guilt Mongering,' and it quoted Hayakawa, and it was an anti-redress editorial. That was what got us into the national level of debate on

this issue, which was precisely what we were trying to do, to make this a national debate," Tateishi said. "That was Hayakawa who did that for us."

Asked by Shimomura whether Hayakawa's statements helped or hurt the cause, Tateishi said Hayakawa's opposition ultimately was a boon for redress because after the *Wall Street Journal's* editorial "... we flooded them with letters to the editor."

"Then the *New York Times* came out with an editorial, completely different," Tateishi continued. "We had it all set up so that we had people in different parts of the country ready to send in letters, and we concentrated the letters from people who were locally from an area. That was pretty much the media campaign."

At the end of the day, even though Hayakawa's stance was "disastrous," Tateishi said they saw a way to work it to the advantage of redress.

♦♦♦

In another media-related anecdote, Ronald Ikejiri, JACL's Washington representative from 1978-84, recalled how he and Rep. Dan Lungren (R-Calif.), who served as the vice chair of the CWRIC and was its lone member who was against monetary payments, both appeared on Larry King's overnight radio show.

"It was a cordial discussion, but it was very obvious Larry King was all for redress," Ikejiri said. "Every time that Dan Lungren would come out with 'no money,' they deserve an apology, [King] would turn it around. He would help my argument, our argument, go in a different direction."

Another tactic that kept the mainstream news media informed of the progress of the redress campaign was baked-in from the beginning, according to Tateishi, at the January 1979 meeting between the JACL National Redress Committee and the Big Four.

Tateishi credited Inouye for insisting that educating Americans be one of the objectives of the redress campaign, especially with regard to preventing such an occurrence from happening again. But he also had a practical idea from a publicity perspective.

"He said one of the things you could do is have the commission issue its report and then wait six months and have them issue the recommendations," Tateishi said. Splitting those items would keep the issue in the news over a longer period of time, thus keeping it from being forgotten or buried.

» See REDRESS on page 8

Topaz incarceration survivor Ben Takeshita points himself out in a camp monument photo.

A reconstructed barrack

An outside view of the Topaz Museum



PHOTOS: ROB BUSCHER



PHOTO: TOSHIKI MASAKI

THE SOLITUDE OF TOPAZ

JACL National Convention attendees visit the former site of the Topaz Relocation Center and Topaz Museum, a testament to all that has been overcome in the years since the incarceration era.

By Rob Buscher

On the Sunday after the JACL National Council concluded its official business, a hundred or so convention attendees had the opportunity to visit the former site of the Topaz Relocation Center. For many, this would be their first visit to an incarceration site, while others were visiting the place they used to call home.

Our daytrip consisted of a visit to the Topaz Museum, where we were greeted by museum staff and treated to a short video presentation about the history of Topaz, followed by free time in the museum and a bus tour of the Topaz site.

Despite the intensity of debates on the council floor at this year's National Convention at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, all divisions ceased to exist as our community gazed upon the barren desert plain.

Unlike Heart Mountain and some of the better-preserved camps, the Topaz site is completely devoid of structures — save for the poured concrete foundations that the barracks once rested upon. It was painfully clear how inhospitable this desolate climate must have appeared to its population of Japanese Americans who mostly hailed from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Our tour guide happened to be a descendant of businessman Nels Petersen, the man who lobbied the War Relocation Authority to have an incarceration camp built in the region. In light of the bleak economic prospects that had plagued the small town of Delta, Utah, since the Depression era, Petersen believed that building a camp nearby would lead to prosperity.

After meeting with WRA officials in San Francisco, Petersen convinced them to purchase nearly 10,000 acres of land from local farmers in addition to 9,000 acres of county-owned

land. About 10 families were forced to sell their farms to the government because of eminent domain, which rounded out the total land acreage to about 20,000. Although the local farmers received payment, this created an additional resentment to the Japanese Americans beyond the already hostile climate of war hysteria.

Visiting the Topaz Museum was the highlight for many of the attendees, as its extensive collection of camp artifacts and two refurbished barracks give visitors a better sense of how life was lived in those dark times.

Located about 10 miles from the Topaz site in the small town of Delta, one wonders if the site itself might be more impactful had the interpretive center been built on that land.

In this sense, the Topaz camp continues to provide a source of revenue to the people of Delta since there is little else that would attract an out-of-state visitor to the rural desert town.

Nevertheless, the exhibit display was a stirring and poignant reminder that extended beyond the platitudes of rhetoric that sometimes obscure

the harsh realities of camp life.

According to statistics recorded at the museum, there were only six Japanese American families living in the town of Delta prior to World War II. Amidst the omnipresent anti-Japanese propaganda that preceded the wartime incarceration, the incoming residents of Topaz were viewed with distrust by many of the townspeople.

Although the local economy did begin to flourish from the construction boom, tensions were exacerbated when storekeepers could not keep up with demand as Japanese Americans were allowed day passes out of camp to go shopping for essentials that could not be bought in camp.

In a June 7, 1943, memo, Topaz Director Charles Ernst wrote about the “deterioration in the attitude of Delta people towards residents.” He explained that many of the townspeople saw its Japanese residents as scapegoats, stating, “For instance, if store-keepers run out of things, they explain this . . . by saying, ‘The damn Japs have bought us out.’ Shopkeepers hide some things under the counters . . . when residents

are permitted to be in Delta in order to save them for the Caucasian customers.”

Others in Delta viewed the Topaz residents with suspicion simply because they lived behind barbed wire, figuring that they must have done something to deserve their incarceration. Another museum panel included a recollection from Delta resident Callie Morley of rumors that “the Japs had bought every butcher knife in town and were planning an uprising.”

Perhaps this paranoia contributed to the killing of Issei James Hatsuaki Wakasa, 63, by military policeman Pvt. Gerald Philpott, who claimed that Wakasa was trying to escape on April 11, 1943. Making matters more controversial, no warning shots were fired, and the only witness was another guard.

Their account does not correlate with the evidence recorded in the official police report, which showed

that Wakasa was shot in the chest facing toward the guard tower and was actually several feet within the perimeter fence.

Mass protests erupted, and all work stopped at Topaz until after Wakasa's funeral was held. Despite mounting evidence that Wakasa was not trying to escape, Pvt. Philpott was found not guilty and transferred to a different post.

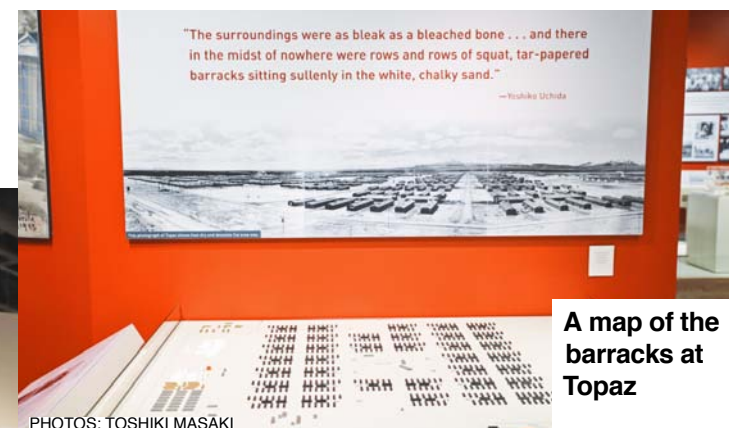
In the aftermath of this tragic event, security lessened, and the Topaz residents were given additional freedoms to come and go from camp.

Incarceration survivor Ben Takeshita recounted a fond memory of collecting topaz crystals in a nearby cave that he and some friends snuck off to one day. Feeling tired from their afternoon excursion, the boys flagged down a passing MP jeep who gave them a ride back to camp.

As time passed, the tensions between the Delta townspeople and Topaz residents lessened, with many of the townspeople finding employment related to the camp. Some even took sympathetic views to the plight of Japanese Americans, such as Delta teacher Melvin Roper.



A pictorial history of Topaz is displayed inside the museum.



A map of the barracks at Topaz

PHOTOS: TOSHIKI MASAKI



PHOTO: ROB BUSCHER

Former Topaz residents point out their barracks on the camp model.

Seeing the barracks being built, Roper observed that they were “very inappropriate for the type of weather that these people were to live in.” Roper went on to oversee the industrial arts program at Topaz High School, coordinating auctions of his woodshop students’ work to help young Nisei earn money in camp.

Another teacher, Louise Adams, helped to organize goodwill exchanges between Delta High School students and those at Topaz. One highlight was the musical production “Hi Neighbors,” which was performed by Topaz residents at Delta High School, including actor Goro Suzuki, who was featured in a prominent role.

One of the museum staff recalled a story from an elder Delta resident who remembered the reactions from a tear-filled audience at the irony of Suzuki singing “America the Beautiful” as part of that production, knowing he would return to his home behind barbed wire that night.

Suzuki would later go on to star in the 1961 film adaptation of “Flower Drum Song” as nightclub owner Sammy Fong under his stage name of Jack Soo.

Alas, while Suzuki was able to find success in his career as an actor (including a series regular role as Det. Nick Yemana on the ABC police comedy “Barney Miller”), he did so under an alias that hid his Japanese ancestry.

Like most topics in the Nikkei community, the layers of detail and nuanced differences between camp experience continues to amaze. As much sadness and trauma resulted from the incarceration at Topaz, so did beauty and joy.

The most striking example of the positive aspects of camp life in Topaz



A Mine Okubo oil painting

A greeting card watercolor by Chiura Obata

was the Topaz Art School, which was established by University of California, Berkeley, Fine Arts Professor Chiura Obata.

A career artist who left Japan at the age of 17, Obata had worked in newspaper and magazine illustration before joining the painting faculty at Berkeley in 1932. Although he had the opportunity to leave California during the “voluntary evacuation” to join his son, Gyo, in St. Louis, Obata chose to remain with his community and help them endure what would come through the pursuit of art education.

In the five months that Obata was held at the Tanforan Assembly Center while Topaz was being completed, he managed to establish an art school that taught more than 600 students ranging in age from 6-70. The school featured more than 23 subjects that included figure drawing, commercial art, architectural drawing, fashion design, sculpture and still life — in addition to more traditional Japanese mediums like ikebana.

Speaking of his motivations for

opening the school, Obata wrote, “Art training gives calmness . . . [while making art] the mind is concentrated to a single objective. We only hope that our art school will follow the teachings of this Great Nature, that it will strengthen itself to endure like the mountains, and, like the sun and the moon, will emit its own light, teach the people, benefit the people and encourage itself.”

Later when they were moved to Topaz, the paintings and drawings created by Obata’s students would be some of the only recorded images made by Japanese Americans in that camp, as access to cameras was highly restricted.

From both his writings and artwork produced during the incarceration, it is clear that Obata viewed his art as a means of perseverance in this time of tribulation.

In a more pointed statement about the impact of art in weathering the incarceration experience, Obata wrote, “We will survive, if we forget the sands at our feet and look to the mountains for inspiration.”

Yet despite his best efforts to for-

get, amidst the tension of the loyalty questionnaire, Obata was physically attacked by an extremist who thought him to be a government spy because of the special privileges granted to him by camp administrators. After two weeks spent recovering in the Topaz hospital, Obata was released for his own safety and sent to live with his architect son in St. Louis.

Despite Obata’s departure, the Topaz Art School continued to thrive until the camp’s closure, under the direction of Matsusaburo George Hibi, another talented painter who helped Obata open the school.

Hibi wrote during his time in camp, “Let us art lovers keep on in the study of art tirelessly wherever we shall relocate or whatever fate shall face us. . . . I am now inside of barbed wires but still sticking in Art — I seek no dirt of the Earth — but the light in the star of the sky.”

Hibi’s wife, Hisako, was also a painter who taught at the school. She recalled one class during a particularly cold winters day, “Water turned to ice on the watercolor paper while I was painting. . . . Shivering, we kept moving our brushes and persisted in painting.”

Over the three years the school was in operation, more than a dozen instructors shared their time and talents with aspiring artists, including another Nikkei artist luminary, Mine Okubo.

Best known for her illustrated memoir titled “Citizen 13660,” Okubo was also involved in both the *To-*

paz Times newspaper and TREK, a literary journal published in camp.

Reflecting on the role of art in documenting their experiences in camp, Okubo wrote, “Cameras and photographs were not permitted in the camps, so I recorded everything in sketches, drawings and paintings.”

Okubo’s illustrations of the daily hardships of camp life were among the first images shown to the general public depicting the realities of the incarceration, which were published in the April 1944 issue of *Fortune Magazine*.

After being hired to illustrate a special feature on the domestic homefront of wartime Japan, Okubo moved to New York City, where she worked for *Fortune Magazine* for several years. At least in her case, art would prove to not only be a method for enduring the indignities of wartime incarceration, but also a viable means to overcome them as well.

They say most great art comes from a place of pain. The art that came from the Topaz residents speaks to the incredible trauma they underwent as a collective community, but also stands as a lasting testament to the strength of their resolve to overcome the many injustices of that era.

It also reminds us of the important role that art has played in our community’s past and provides compelling motivation for incorporating the arts into our present-day advocacy efforts. ■



A memorial plaque dedicated to the Topaz site

PHOTOS: TOSHIKI MASAKI



JACLers at the Topaz site

Barbed Wire sign at Topaz

PHOTOS: ROB BUSCHER

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REDRESS » continued from page 5

As it turned out, it was less than six months, Tateishi noted, adding that when the CWRIC report was issued, it led the news on ABC, CBS and NBC. About three months later when the CWRIC held another press conference and released its recommendations, the same thing happened.

“Every network and most local news started with the recommendations of the commission, which was \$20,000, an apology and a trust fund,” Tateishi said. He also revealed why the original amount of \$25,000 in monetary compensation became \$20,000.

Tateishi noted how he had met on several occasions with Joan Bernstein, chair of the CWRIC.

“I was arguing for the commission to come out with monetary compensation, which was the JACL’s position. And then we started talking about the amounts,” he said.

Tateishi told Bernstein that he had heard the commission was considering compensation of \$10,000.

“If you come out with an amount that low, the JACL is going to be screaming. It’s an insult,” he said.

Another figure being tossed around was \$15,000. She told Tateishi it was likely that the commission would go with \$20,000.

“I said, ‘It’s not enough.’ Why not come out with \$25,000?” he said.

Bernstein’s answer: “John, you know if we come out with \$25,000, it’s going to look like we’re under the thumb of the JACL.”

“That’s why they came out with \$20,000,” Tateishi said.

Interjecting from the audience, former Congressman and Cabinet member Norman Mineta chimed in and noted that it was the CWRIC’s special consul, Angus Macbeth, who finally said, “Tie it down,” meaning stop deliberating and just decide on a monetary figure.

In other words, eligible Japanese Americans received 80 percent of what the JACL originally asked for — and the CWRIC didn’t look like it was being a puppet of the JACL.

♦♦♦

When panelist Frank Sato was introduced, Shimomura noted that he had served JACL at the national level, first as secretary-treasurer, then as national president.

Sato was the “highest-ranking Japanese American in Ronald Reagan’s administration. He served as inspector general for the Department of Veterans Affairs. His appointment required Senate confirmation,” Shimomura said.

Shimomura noted that under President Reagan, Sato was “selected as the chief auditor for a committee that was trying to reduce wasteful spending, and he was highly regarded by Reagan and his administration. That’s indicated by the fact that in 1985, Reagan gave Sato the award for meritorious service and also another award in 1987 for distinguished executive service. That was the very same period when he was serving as national president of JACL. The Reagan administration approved him taking on this responsibility at that time.”

Sato, who was already a JACL member, said he became involved in JACL at the national level at the urging of Ikejiri, who was already a member of Sato’s “kitchen cabinet.”

Ikejiri noted how the JACL national president



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF FLOYD SHIMOMURA

before Floyd Shimomura, (James Tsujimura), had asked Ikejiri to write a letter to the White House to request a meeting.

“I got a letter back, and they said, ‘I’m sorry, the president is very busy, and we can’t meet with you,’” Ikejiri said.

A meeting at the White House to discuss redress, however, just might boost its chances.

♦♦♦

According to Sato, “Ron says to me one day, ‘Frank, why don’t you run for (JACL) national president?’ and I said, ‘Ron, you’re out of your gourd,’” which got laughs from the audience.

Nevertheless, Sato credited Ikejiri’s persistence since he knew Sato could someday be of help to JACL.

“When anybody says, ‘We need your help’ to me, you get my attention. He says, ‘You’re a financial guy. You run for secretary-treasurer of JACL, and after you get that done, and if you’re comfortable, run for JACL president. And that’s exactly what happened.’”

“When I ran for secretary-treasurer, I won by 114 with one abstention,” Sato recalled. “Two years later, I ran for national president against our icon, Min Yasui. I won by one vote.

Sato noted that as part of his duties under the Reagan administration, he was already meeting regularly with people at the White House, and among them was Jack Svahn, who was the assistant to the president for domestic policy and the chairman of the president’s council, of which Sato was also a member.

After being rejected once, Ikejiri wanted to try again to get a meeting at the White House.

“So then I went and talked to Frank Sato, and I said, ‘Frank, you have contacts and long-term relationships with the Reagan administration. Is there a way we could set up a meeting?’” Ikejiri recalled.

“When the time came that Ron wanted me to call a White House meeting, I got it done for him,” said Sato, who said that for him, “Getting a meeting was easy.”

There was one catch: No one could know about the meeting.

“I told Floyd, John and Ron, you gotta keep this thing quiet,” Sato said. “In D.C., if people want to get you for anything, they’re going to dream up stories, pitch dirt at you, and the next thing you know, perception becomes reality, and I’d be gone.

“But worse, the danger that I was afraid of was I didn’t want anything to endanger the redress program,” he continued. “So, I asked the staff not to talk about our meeting in the White House.”

There could be no potential for someone to claim Sato had a conflict of interest.

Sato called Svahn’s office and got connected right away.

“I said, ‘Jack, I need to get a meeting set up with Floyd Shimomura, national president of JACL, and here’s what we’re working on.’ I briefly explained to him the redress issue, and he said, ‘Why, of course,’ and we had a meeting set up for the next week.”

Sato said he was “kind of surprised” it happened so quickly. “Thankfully, guys like Ron Wakabayashi and the staff had put together a book — and I still remember the book — it was a black three-ring binder with a bunch of stuff in it.

“But there was one key item in there, and it was an article about President Reagan, who was then Capt. Reagan, who had accompanied Gen. (Joseph) Stilwell to this service for Staff Sgt. (Kazuo) Masuda.”

Sato was referring to an incident in 1945 at which Stilwell, accompanied by Reagan, presented the Distinguished Service Cross medal posthumously awarded to Masuda, to his sister, Mary.

Reagan famously said, “Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way — an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way.”

“I didn’t know it until later on, but I found out that Carole Hayashino is the one who dug up that info that we took into the White House,” Sato said. (Hayashino had been scheduled to be on the same panel but had to bow out due to a family emergency.)

Sato said after he, Ikejiri, Tateishi and Shimomura had this White House meeting with Svahn and his deputy, Lou Hayes, he never received any feedback of what transpired subsequently — and with the self-imposed secrecy he requested, the meeting might as well have never happened.

“The only thing I knew is Jack would always say to me at subsequent meetings, ‘Don’t worry about it, Frank. We’ll take care of it,’” Sato said.

♦♦♦

Sato then related how a few months ago he received a call from Shimomura to share something that he had learned, namely that Svahn had written a memoir published in 2011 about his 20 years of working with Reagan, titled “There Must Be a Pony in Here Somewhere.”

Sato received a copy from Shimomura, and when he had the chance to read it, he finally

learned about the impact of that meeting.

“I started glancing through this thing, and sure enough, there are some references to redress,” Sato said. “It’s talking about the Masuda story and the famous quote, ‘blood in the sand,’ that you’re all familiar with. And he talked about the fact that he had mentioned to the president that before the next Veterans Day, maybe the president could support this bill.”

Shimomura later said he was glad Svahn wrote his book because once he had written about what had occurred, they, too, could finally break their silence.

In the book, Sato learned that Svahn had “taken this whole subject and made it an issues item on a Tuesday presidential meeting in the Cabinet room.”

“So we did have some effect from that, that we didn’t fully understand or appreciate. . . . I don’t think the organization — JACL — fully appreciates what all these guys have really done as Sanseis that the Niseis just weren’t ready to step up to the table to do,” Sato said. “I’d like to ask all of you to join me in applauding all of these guys.”

♦♦♦

As for Shimomura’s thoughts on redress, he noted how unintended consequences are usually thought of as being bad.

“But here, I think, a lot of the unintended consequences were actually good. It was almost kind of magical in a way,” he said.

Shimomura also noted that with the subject of reparations for African-American descendants of slaves again a topic of discussion, people are looking to the Japanese American redress campaign as a model.

For his part, Ikejiri’s view was that “when you talk about redress, redress really is about people and interrelationships. It was just one of those wonderful things.”

He also announced that the panelists had taken up a collection to buy Mineta a rocking chair like the one that President John F. Kennedy made famous. “It’s not for you to rest in. It’s for you to work in,” he said.

Regarding redress and its meaning in the intervening years, former JACL National Director Ron Wakabayashi said, “Something really remarkable took place, and it was a cumulative effect of a lot of people’s contributions. We did it drop by drop.”

He closed by asking the audience to give a “shaka” salute to Hayashino, which he recorded on his smartphone to share with her.



Photo taken outside of the West Wing of the White House in August 1984. Pictured (from left) are Frank Sato, Floyd Shimomura and Ronald Ikejiri.

Go for Broke National Education Center Names New Chairman, Board Members

LOS ANGELES — Go for Broke National Education Center has named George A. Henning as its new chairman, with Junior Bryant, Craig Ishii and Kimberlee Tachiki-Chin joining the board of directors of the national nonprofit organization, it was announced recently.

Henning is chairman, president and CEO of Pacific Global Investment Management Co., a Glendale, Calif.-based investment advisory firm he founded in 1991. He currently serves as portfolio manager for several of the firm's investment funds. Henning holds a bachelor's degree from Geneva College and a master's degree from Indiana University.

A longtime supporter of GFBNEC, Henning was introduced to the Nisei veterans' legacy by philanthropist and 522nd Field Artillery Battalion veteran Manabi Hirasaki, a close friend who shared his family history and World War II experiences with Henning.

"His humble recollection of events and experiences under such terrible circumstances for any U.S. citizen was painful to comprehend," Henning said. "We often discussed the importance of passing this legacy forward to future generations. I'm honored to assume this leadership capacity to advance the legacy of 'Go for Broke.'"

Mitchell T. Maki, GFBNEC's president and CEO, welcomed Henning's appointment to the chairman's role.

"We're fortunate to have George's extensive professional and business experience to help us

expand the legacy of our Nisei WWII veterans and their contributions to our democracy," Maki said. "His leadership will help us attract new supporters and broaden our influences as we reach out to new communities and generations."

GFBNEC's new board members represent a range of professions and disciplines.

Bryant, an adviser to emerging start-up companies, previously served as vp and national marketing and sales director for Pacific Global Investments. A veteran of the National Football League, Bryant retired from the San Francisco 49ers in 2003 after a 10-year career as a defensive lineman. He also is active in philanthropic activities, serving as a board member for the Forever Young Foundation and co-founder of Legends of Sports Foundation. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame.

Ishii, the integrated marketing communication manager at Beckman Coulter, has dedicated his career to businesses and organizations that support positive social development. He has served in several positions with Japanese American community organizations, including the JACL and the Little Tokyo Community Council. He also was a founding member and executive director of Kizuna, a nonprofit dedicated to educating and engaging the next generation of Japanese Americans. He holds a bachelor's degree in history and economics from the University of California, Los Ange-

les, and a master's degree in public administration with a certificate in nonprofit management from California State University, Northridge.

And Tachiki-Chin has served as senior field deputy for U.S. Congresswoman Lucile Roybal-Allard for more than 20 years. She has extensive experience with community and nonprofit organizations, including the JACL, the Asian Pacific Women's Center and Pacific Asian Counseling Services. In addition, she is a founding member of the Asian Pacific American Legislative Staff Network. Tachiki-Chin holds a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and physical education from California State University, Northridge.

Henning noted that the new board members bring additional depth to the GFBNEC board.

"We honor the Japanese American soldiers who served with loyalty and distinction during WWII, despite the U.S. treating them as a threat to their own country and the incarceration of many of their families," he said. "Today, those lessons couldn't be more relevant, with

citizens of other races other facing threats because of their cultural backgrounds or religious beliefs. Junior, Craig and Kim bring fresh expertise to our board as we work toward a future that values inclusion, tolerance and mutual respect."



Craig Ishii

PHOTO: COURTESY OF C. ISHII



George A. Henning

PHOTO: COURTESY OF G. HENNING



Junior Bryant

PHOTO: COURTESY OF J. BRYANT



Kimberlee Tachiki-Chin

PHOTO: COURTESY OF K. TACHIKI-CHIN

LIFE » continued from page 3

Just this past week, a Japanese American man I know posted on his Facebook page that he was approached by a young man after a football game, who asked him where he was from. "Colorado," he replied. The young man then asked him where he was born. "California," he responded. My friend was told he looked "too Asian" to be born in the U.S. My friend's wife saw the young man sticking his finger in his mouth to fake gagging as my friend walked away.

This wasn't late at night off a deserted highway. This was in the middle of thousands of people at a major sports stadium.

That's a frightening escalation of racial hatred to me. With Trump escalating his trade war with China, I'm nervous that anti-Asian hatred will make its cyclical return and be added to the white nationalism and anti-Muslim sentiments that are already infecting our society.

To paraphrase Bette Davis' line from "All About Eve": "Fasten your seatbelts — it's going to be a bumpy year (or more)."

Gil Asakawa is a former chair of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board and author of "Being Japanese American" (Second Edition, Stone Bridge Press, 2015). He blogs at www.nikkeiview.com.

SENIORS » continued from page 3

All adult patients have the right to determine what shall be done with their own bodies and thus must consent to any proposed health-care treatment. This precept is at the heart of American notions of personal autonomy and has been reinforced by a century of court cases and statutory law. If consent is not obtained before treatment is administered, the health-care provider is guilty of battery.

For patients who lack capacity to make decisions about their care due to cognitive disability, informed consent must nonetheless be obtained from the resident's representative, usually a family member or a close friend.

"Say Judd, who's the resident's representative?" Hopefully, YOU ARE!!!

While we are on the subject, do you have a power of attorney? My legal advice is any adult over 40 years of age should have a valid power of attorney because that's when health issues generally start showing up. You will find there are two types of power of attorneys: (1) financial and (2) health care. It would be wise to have both.

In conclusion, if a psychotropic drug is being administered without permission, the resident or representative should demand immediately that the drug be discontinued. The demand

should be in writing and emphasize how the nursing home has put itself in legal jeopardy by administering a drug without consent. Submit this demand to the director of nursing and the nursing home's Grievance Official.

Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Medi-Cal Planning, Estate Planning and Probate. He can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or judd@elder-lawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

'Hold These Truths' Performances Sacramento, CA

Sept. 7; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

California Museum Auditorium
1020 O St.

Price: Matinee free to the public (Q & A and Community Tabling to follow); Evening \$25 (Panel Discussion along with Ryun Yu)

The ABAS Law Foundation proudly presents Jeanne Sakata's "Hold These Truths," concert readings of a solo play inspired by the life of Gordon Hirabayashi, who fought the U.S. government's orders to forcibly remove and mass incarcerate all people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast during the onset of World War II.

For free tickets and paid tickets, visit <https://www.abaslawfoundation.org/speaker-series-truths-2/>. You must RSVP in advance to ensure adequate seating.

Midori Kai Arts & Crafts Boutique Mountain View, CA

Sept. 14; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mountain View Buddhist Temple Gym
575 N. Shoreline Blvd.**Price:** Free

It's never too early to get a jump-start on holiday shopping! This event will feature many talented and creative artisans, including handcrafted jewelry, clothing, pottery, Asian foods, live entertainment and much more. All proceeds benefit nonprofit organizations, including the Asian Pacific Islander Leadership Institute, Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, Japanese American Museum-San Jose and Yu Ai Kai-Keiro Kai Program.

Info: Visit www.midorikai.com or email Phyllis Osaki at posaki@gs-management.com or Marsha Baird at marshabaird@me.com.

Tule Lake, America's Worst Concentration Camp Sacramento, CA

Sept. 14; 1-3:30 p.m.

Buddhist Church of Sacramento
2401 Riverside Blvd.**Price:** Free

This talk features historian Roger Daniels and Barbara Takei along with Suyama Project Coordinators Karen Umemoto, Martha Nakagawa and Tom Nguyen. Takei and Daniels will talk about the book they are writing about Tule Lake, and the event will share the importance of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center's Suyama Project, which aims to preserve the history of Japanese American resistance during WWII.

Info: For additional information, contact Barbara Takei at btakei@pobox.com or call (916) 427-1733.

COPANI XX 2019

San Francisco, CA

Sept. 20-22

West Bay Conference Center
1290 Fillmore St.Buddhist Church of San Francisco
1881 Pine St.

Price: Registration prices vary; visit the website for more information.

Every two years, COPANI brings

together international Nikkeis to celebrate Japanese heritage, obtain knowledge about the Japanese American experience outside the U.S., practice foreign languages, make new friends and exchange ideas and interact with peers in engaging workshops. This year's keynote speaker is Hon. Norman Mineta.

Info: Visit www.copani.org.

Chiura Obata: An American Modern Sacramento, CA

Thru Sept. 25

Crocker Art Museum

216 O St.

Price: Free for members; Adults \$12; Seniors/Students/Military \$8; Youth: \$6
Born in Japan, Chiura Obata emigrated to the U.S. in 1903 and began a seven-decade career that saw him emerging as a leading figure in the Northern California art scene and as an influential educator. This exhibition offers more than 100 paintings, drawings, prints and personal items from the artist, many of which have never been on public display. They range from the artist's early formal studies as a student in Japan to the California landscapes for which he is most recognized.

Info: Visit www.crockerart.org.

'Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066' Screening Sacramento, CA

Sept. 29; 2 p.m.

California Secretary of State Auditorium
1020 O St.

Don't miss this opportunity to see the Sacramento premiere of Jon Osaki's award-winning documentary film about the false information and political influences that led to the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion led by Osaki.

Info: Visit <https://www.alternative-facts9066.com/about> or contact JJML Productions at jjmlproductionsllc@gmail.com.

PSW

Second Annual Keiro No Hi Festival Los Angeles, CA

Sept. 14; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

JACCC Plaza

244 S. San Pedro St.

Price: Free, but prior RSVP is required to receive free bento lunch, birthday gift or transportation.

This year's festival celebrates the community's older adults, complete with musical performances, a series of health and aging-related workshops and resources to assist in the aging process. Complimentary transportation from numerous locations will be provided, as well as a bento lunch for attendees over age 60 and those seniors celebrating birthdays in 2019 will also receive a special gift with prior registration.

Info: To register, visit www.keiro.org/knh or visit www.jaccc.org/keiro-no-hi-festival.

Aki Matsuri 2019 Japanese Fall Festival 'Longevity: The Way of the Turtle'

Albuquerque, NM

Sept. 22; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

New Mexico Veterans Memorial

1100 Louisiana Blvd. S.E.

Price: Admission, \$5; Children 12 and under are free

This annual family oriented event, hosted by the New Mexico JACL chapter, will take attendees on a journey through the arts, music and crafts of the Japanese culture, complete with vendors, performers and interactive activities for all ages. Back by popular demand is a ramen-eating contest under the leadership of the youth group from the UNM Japanese Language Club. Tickets for admission can be purchased online at www.nmjacl.org.

Info: Visit <http://nmjacl.org> for more information and a program lineup.

Keiro Symposium: Aging Into Tomorrow Long Beach, CA

Oct. 5; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Westin Long Beach

333 E. Ocean Blvd.

Price: \$50 Registration

Join Keiro for a day of innovative, thought-provoking sessions and panels that explore what aging into tomorrow can mean for our community. Keynote speakers include Dr. Candice Hall of Next Advanced Medicine and Tracey Doi, CFO for Toyota Motor North America. Registration is required.

Info: Visit https://www.keiro.org/what-we-do/events/keiro-symposium?utm_source=eblast&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=19jul18-reg.

Kokoro Craft Boutique

Los Angeles, CA

Oct. 6; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

JANM

100 N. Central Ave.

Price: Free

The 11th annual boutique returns featuring 50 vendors selling unique jewelry, kimono fabric fashions, Giant Robot merchandise, handbags, ceramics, glass art, pet accessories and much more. In addition, performances by harpist Audrey Kato and Yuuju Daiko will also take place. All proceeds will benefit JANM's education programs. Those who make a boutique purchase of \$25 or more will receive a free same-day admission to the museum.

Info: Visit janm.org/events or call (213) 830-1883.

'At First Light: The Dawning of Asian Pacific America'

Los Angeles, CA

Thru Oct. 20

JANM

100 N. Central Ave.

This multimedia exhibition explores and celebrates the emergence of a politically defined Asian Pacific American consciousness and identity. A co-production between Visual Communications and JANM, this exhibition serves as a reminder — as well as a call to action — of what can be accomplished when people unite as a community with commitment.

Info: Visit www.janm.org.

PNW

Live Aloha Hawaiian Cultural Festival Seattle, WA

Sept. 8; 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Seattle Center

305 Harrison St.

Price: Visit website for information as it becomes available.

This family oriented event serves to promote, perpetuate and share the Hawaiian culture in the Pacific Northwest through music, food, arts and more. This year's event will feature a performance by singer Amy Hanaiali'i. There will also be a musubi-eating contest. This event promises to be fun for all!

Info: Visit seattlelivealohafestival.com.

Screening of 'Hiro's Table'

Portland, OR

Sept. 29; 2:30 p.m.

Clinton Street Theater

2522 S.E. Clinton St.

Price: \$10 General admission; \$8

JACL members (if purchasing in advance, contact Portland JACL for discount code)

Presented by the Portland JACL, this screening of the award-winning documentary follows Japanese chef Hiroji Obayashi and his family from his busy Los Angeles restaurant to his retirement in the Pacific Northwest. A Q & A with director/producer Lynn Hamrick and Obayashi follows the screening.

Info: Visit <https://cstpd.com/show/portland-jacl-presents-hiros-table>.

CCDC

Water Lantern Festival

Fresno, CA

Sept. 21; 4:30-8:30 p.m.

Woodward Park

7775 N. Friant Road

Price: \$30 until Aug. 30; \$35 until Sept. 20; \$40 on Sept. 21.

The Water Lantern Festival is an incredible experience where family, friends and strangers celebrate life together. With your event ticket, you'll be able to make your own unique water lantern, which will be launched during the evening event. It's a moment to mark peace, love, friendship and thankfulness to the community, the environment, to the world.

Info: Visit waterlanternfestival.com.

IDC

Denver Taiko at Denver Botanical Gardens

Denver, CO

Sept. 17; 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Denver Botanical Gardens

1007 York St.

Price: Included with Gardens admission

This event, made possible by the Sakura Foundation, is helping to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Shofu-En at the Denver Botanical Gardens. Visitors can enjoy two 15-minute performances by Denver Taiko and a brief lecture about the history of taiko drumming. Denver Taiko was founded in 1976.

Info: Visit <https://www.jascolorado.org/eventsold/2019/9/17/denver-taiko-at-denver-botanic-gardens>.

MDC

Kizuki Chicago Japanese Matsuri 2019

Chicago, IL

Sept. 21-22; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

NEWCITY Plaza

1457 N. Halsted St.

Price: Free

This is the largest Asian/Japanese festival in Chicago. The two-day event will feature a schedule packed with Japanese art, martial arts performances, fashion, vendors, kids activities, music and, of course, food! There will also be a Cosplay Contest as well. All of the festival foods will be prepared by chef Kevin Yu and his team from Kizuki Ramen & Izakaya and will feature takoyaki, chicken kaarage, potato croquette, okonomiyaki and many other classic festival foods. This is an event for the entire family to enjoy.

Info: Visit <https://www.chicagoasian-network.com/events/kizuki-chicago-japanese-matsuri-2019>.

EDC

Royal Celebrations: Japanese Prints and Postcards

Boston, MA

Thru Sept. 15

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave.

As Japan welcomes a new emperor, the MFA offers an exhibit of prints, postcards and illustrated books from its collections that depict important events in the Japanese imperial family from 1868-present.

Info: Visit <https://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/royal-celebrations>.

Yayoi Kusama: Love Is Calling

Boston, MA

Sept. 24-Feb. 7, 2021

Institute for Contemporary Art

25 Harbor Shore Dr.

An icon of contemporary art, Yayoi Kusama has interwoven ideas of pop art, minimalism and psychedelia throughout her work in paintings, performances, room-size presentations, outdoor sculptural installations, literary works and more during her influential career. This exhibit is the most immersive and kaleidoscopic of the artist's Infinity Mirror Rooms. For the 90-year-old artist, this exhibit represents the culmination of her artistic achievements.

Info: Visit <https://www.icaboston.org/exhibition/yayoi-kusama-love-calling>.

En/trance

New York, NY

Through 2020

New York Japan Society Gallery

333 E. 47th St.

This exhibit features a series of art projects aimed at bringing visual art and interactive experiences into the institution's public spaces. Artist Yoshitomo Nara launches the series with new works he created in Shigaraki, one of Japan's oldest areas for pottery making.

Info: Visit <https://www.japansociety.org/page/programs/gallery/entrance>.

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In MEMORIAM



Ibaraki, Albert, 88, Los Angeles, CA, June 8.



Ikeda, Betty Reiko, 75, Glendale, CA, June 12; she was predeceased by her sister, Ruby Rumiko Ikeda; she is survived by her sister, Marie (Albert) Chan; brothers-in-law, Albert KaWah Chan and Vaughn Obern.



Ikeda, Mary, 98, Fresno, CA, May 20.

Inouye, Grace, 96, Cupertino, CA, July 24; she was predeceased by her siblings, Tomiko Tanase (Samuel), Mae Minato (Katsuji), Ann Masuda (Tom) and Ray Inouye (June); she is survived by many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Inouye, June Kiku, 84, Torrance, CA, May 8; she is survived by her

sons, Wade (Juliann) and Michael Inouye; brother-in-law, Ben (Terrie) Inouye; sisters-in-law, Pauline Takahashi, Kimiko and Edie Inouye; gc: 2.

Ishii, Shigeru, 88, Anaheim, CA, Aug. 15; he is survived by his wife, Frances Ishii; children Wendy Hirano, Steven Ishii and Brian Ishii; gc: 5; ggc: 1.



Ito, Margo Naomi, 76, La Palma, CA, May 6; she was predeceased by her son, Ross (Natalie); she is survived by her husband, Henry; children, Ryan Ito and Remy (Arnold) Eclarinal; siblings, Melvin Miyasaki, Michael (Elizabeth) Miyasaki and Marcia (Don) Tschogl; gc: 3.

Kujubu, Chikao, 95, Los Angeles, CA, June 1; he was predeceased by his wife, Mary Miyoko Kujubu; he is survived by his children, Dr. Dean Kujubu, Dianne (Joe) Belli and Leah (Dr. Robert) Oye; gc: 4; ggc: 3.

Kunioka, Glorian, 84, Los Angeles, CA, May 26; she is survived by her husband, John; children, Kyle, Erlene (Sheppard), Todd and Lorene (Miller); brothers, Clifford and Paul Araki; gc: 4.



Matsunaga, Mark George, 56, Gardena, CA, May 5; he is survived

by his wife, Janice Kimiko Masuzumi-Matsunaga; daughter, Taylor Fusaye Matsunaga; sisters, Sharon Lynn (Mike) Nowell, Julie Ann (Damon) Yates, Brenda Carolyn (Dave) Kim, Janet Ellen (Tony) Coleman and Lisa Michiye (Ronnie) Kimura; brother-in-law, Glenn Katsuo (Ana) Masuzumi; sister-in-law, Sharon Fujiko (Paul) Sawai; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Mitsuuchi, Brent, 47, Los Angeles, CA, June 20; he was predeceased by his father, John Seiki Mitsuuchi; he is survived by his wife, Haruko Mitsuuchi; children, Drew and Mina; mother, Patricia Mitsuuchi; mother-in-law, Fumiko Uchida; siblings, Jon, Rodny (Stephanie), Todd (Alesia), Sharon (Daniel) Hanabusa and Takako (Wilkin) Lee; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Muramoto, Kita Hisaye, 98, Los Angeles, CA, May 15; she is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Murashige, Kay, 95, San Gabriel, CA, May 12; she is survived by her husband, Ernest Murashige; daughter, Karie (John) Lanterman; gc: 3.

Nishida, Gwen, 57, Los Angeles, CA, May 8; she was predeceased by her father, John; she is survived by her mother, Kikuko; husband, Chris; children, Carly and John; she is also survived by 3 siblings and many other relatives.



Norihiro, Sally, 81, Los Angeles, CA, May 27; she is survived by her husband, Stanley Norihiro; children, Glenn and Polly Norihiro; brother, Tony Fujita; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Sato, Douglas, 55, Cerritos, CA, May 10.



Sawano, Yasuko, 95, Irvine, CA, May 1; she was predeceased by her husband, Kiyoshi; she is survived by her children, Alissa (Leon) Peterson, Albert (Audrey Wu) Sawano; gc: 3.

Senzaki, Ronald, 72, Los Angeles, CA, June 1; he is survived by his brother, Paul (Irene); he is also survived by a nephew, a niece and numerous cousins.

Shigaki, Alfred, 92, Los Angeles, CA, May 8; he is survived by his wife, Doris; daughters, Susan (Edmond) Young and Janice (Andrew Shiozaki) Shigaki; siblings, Sumiko Ikegami, Betty Muramaru and Don (Anna) Shigaki; sisters-in-law, Mae Shigaki, Hideko Inouye, Mary (Tadayuki) Tanaka, Elaine (Harry) Higa and Minako Nishihiara; gc: 2.

Shimane, Chiye, 83, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, May 26; she was predeceased by her husband, Bert; she is survived by her children, Carolyn (Lantz) Campbell and Naomi (Curtis) Kaneshiro; gc: 4.

Shimane, June 'Johnson,' 95, San Jose, CA, May 12; he is survived by his wife, Yoko; sons, Casey and Stephen; gc: 5.

Shimomaye, Shinobu, 85, Los Angeles, CA, May 26; he was predeceased by his wife, Miyoko; he is survived by his children, Elaine (Kevin Kojima) Shimomaye, Irene (Gary) Parsick and James Shimomaye; siblings, Matsuo (Goldie) Shimomaye and Kiyoko Teramoto; gc: 3.

Shingai, Isamu Sam, 98, Santa Clara, CA, June 5.

Shintani, Kazue, 97, Sacramento, CA, June 14; she was predeceased by her husband, Roy; sisters, Sakae Miyasaki and Toshie Handa; she is survived by her children, Kathleen (Eiji) Yamamoto, Richard, Ruby (David Williams) and Dave; gc: 3; ggc: 3.



Takahashi, Gene Yuji, 68, Lake-wood, CA, April 19; he is survived by his wife, Ann Takahashi; daughters, Lisa (Randy) Yaka and Stacy Takahashi; brother, Bruce (Sylvia) Takahashi; sister-in-law, Yoko (Ole) Nervik; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Tanaka, Satoru, 86, San Jose, CA, May 4; he is survived by his wife, Jean; 4 children; gc: 9; ggc: 3.



Wintermyer, Michiyo, 86, Akron, OH, June 17.

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

WORLD ROAD TRIP AND STAYING ACTIVE

By Ron Mori

At this year's JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City, I met Shin from Palo Alto, Calif. We were van seatmates on our way to visit the Topaz concentration camp and the museum that has been built there.

We were not even out of the Little America Hotel parking lot, and I could tell that Shin was a walking and talking example of someone who continues to stay socially active and mentally sharp. At one point, I even suggested that he should write a book about his world travels and life experiences.

How many people can say they have visited 100 cities in Japan, toured South America, Europe and rode the Trans-Siberian railway through Russia? In between his travels between cities, Shin taught English and worked on a farm in Japan for three months to teach the new owners farming skills from the United States.

Shin is in his 80s, and he had more energy and stories to tell than all of us in our van combined.

We all have read that staying socially active has always been good advice for staying

happy and healthy. Well, now research shows just how meaningful those conversations and connections can be.

People who are more socially active in their 50s and 60s tend to have a lower risk of developing dementia, according to a new study. Researchers point to the concept of "cognitive reserve" — the mind's ability to resist decline or failure.

Someone who saw friends almost daily at age 60 is 12 percent less likely to develop dementia than someone who only saw one or two friends every few months. Similar associations were found among people ages 50 and 70.

"People who are socially engaged are exercising cognitive skills such as memory and language, which may help them to develop cognitive reserve," said the study's senior author, Gill Livingston, a professor of psychiatry at University College London. "While it may not stop their brains from changing, cognitive reserve could help people cope better with the effects of age and delay any symptoms of dementia."

Spending more time with friends can be tied to physical activity that also reduces the risk of dementia, according to Livingston.

"We've found that social contact, in middle age and late life, appears to lower the risk of dementia," said the study's lead author,

Dr. Andrew Sommerlad of University College London. "This finding could feed into strategies to reduce everyone's risk of developing dementia, adding yet another reason to promote connected communities and find ways to reduce isolation and loneliness."

In the United States, 5.8 million people have dementia linked to Alzheimer's disease, according to the Chicago-based Alzheimer's Assn. Nearly all of them are 65 or older.

One doesn't need to travel the world like Shin, but being connected to people and pushing oneself or one's loved ones to be socially connected are important to lower the risk of developing dementia.

As I left Salt Lake City, Shin was taking a midnight train back to Northern California. I had a chance to say goodbye as we departed our van, but I know that I just scratched the surface of his ongoing life journey from being an inmate in Topaz, farmer to world traveler, teacher and energetic lifelong learner. I hope our paths cross again, as Shin passed along his generational wisdom through his many stories and memories.

To learn more about the steps to help maintain and improve one's brain health, join our AARP Teletown Call on Sept. 5 at 2:30 p.m. EST by registering at <https://vekeo.com/event/aarpmclaapi-46591/>.



For additional information on brain health, visit www.stayingsharp.org and the Global Council on Brain Health at www.GlobalCouncilonBrainHealth.org.

Ron Mori is a member of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.

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